

Inter American Affairs Subcom,  
House Foreign Affairs

THE EVENING STAR

For Release 2002/01/23 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000100100006-0  
DATE 7/16/12 PAGE 9

# Castro's Wooing of U.S. Is Analyzed

A Defense Intelligence Agency analyst has told a House subcommittee that Fidel Castro's overtures toward normalizing relations with Washington have been primarily prompted by the nationalistic trend becoming evident in Latin America of countries wishing to be rid of dependence on the United States.

Paul F. Wallner, a Western Area analyst for DIA, gave this opinion at closed hearings in September before the House subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, headed by Rep. Dante Fascell, D-Fla. A transcript of the testimony, sanitized by DIA for security reasons, was released this week by the subcommittee.

Wallner told the subcommittee that Castro's overtures were not the result of any signal from Washington but rather developments within Latin America. He said Castro was influenced by the election of Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile, the reformist military regime in Peru and "the nationalistic cult that is starting to become evident in South America."

## "Belligerent Attitude"

The testimony indicated that because of the apparently warmer diplomatic climate, Cuba was in a better position

to approach more normal relations with the United States.

Castro's stated conditions for improved relations with the United States, the DIA specialist said, include: Withdrawal of the United States from the Guantanamo Bay naval base; cessation of overflights over the island; a halt to support for exile operations against Cuba and an end to the economic blockade.

Wallner concluded that DIA sees a continuation of the

trend toward normalization of relations between Cuba and other Latin countries although he said Castro continues limited and selective support for insurgents in Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia and Uruguay.

There were deletions in this phase of his testimony indicating three other countries in which Castro is supporting insurgents.

The testimony of Wallner and other DIA experts was primarily on Soviet activities

in Cuba and they said it is clear that the Russians have tried to persuade Castro to follow non-violent approaches and do not furnish arms or training for violent revolution in the western hemisphere.

## Views Reassessed

All Soviet military equipment provided to Cuba in recent years has been defensive, Wallner testified. DIA said no

surface combatant vessels, submarines or submarine tenders have been in Cuban waters since May.

It also has been learned that Russia has been twisting Castro's arm to reach an agreement with the United States on air pirates and that there is now optimism that this may be achieved by bilateral talks through the Swiss.